

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20

DRC-01 /139 W

----- 117741

P 210851Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9859

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USINT CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG, PK, IN, EG, SA, ID

SUBJECT: ISLAMIC SUMMIT: PAKISTAN RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH

REF: LAHORE 0264

BEGIN SUMMARY: DESPITE RECENT BDG REBUFF, ISLAMIC SUMMIT
CONFERENCE DELEGATES HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO DACCA TO ATTEMPT
TO WORK OUT A DEAL BETWEEN BDG AND GOP WHICH WOULD RESULT IN
DROPPING OF POW TRIALS, RECOGNITION, AND BANGLADESH ATTENDANCE
AT SUMMIT MEETING BEGINNING FEB 22. REPORTEDLY GOI HAS THROWN
SPANNER INTO THE DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS BY INSISTING THAT POW
MATTER MUST BE SETTLED AT TRILATERAL MEETING ACCORDING TO
SIMLA AND DELHI AGREEMENTS - A PROCESS WHICH WOULD TAKE TOO
LONG TO REACH FRUITION DURING SUMMIT TALKS IN LAHORE.
NEVERTHELESS, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, AND PERHAPS OTHERS CON-
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TINUE THEIR EFFORTS FOR AN EARLY RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GOP

AND BDG. END SUMMARY.

1. 1. PAK PRESS FEBRUARY 21 IS FILLED WITH REPORTS OF RENEWED EFFORT TO RESOLVE PROBLEM OF RECOGNITION/WAR TRIALS IN BILATERAL GOP-BDG RELATIONS IN ORDER TO OPEN WAY FOR MUJIBUR RAHMAN'S ATTENDANCE AT ISLAMIC SUMMIT MEETING OPENING FEB 22. PAKTIMES BANNERLINED NEWS THAT 2 MAN DELEGATION HAD BEEN DISPATCHED TO DACCA ON AFTERNOON FEB 20 TO ATTEMPT TO SECURE FROM SHEIKH MUJIB "CAST-IRON GUARANTEE THAT HE WOULD ABANDON HIS THREATENED TRIAL OF 195 PAKISTANI WAR PRISONERS" IN RETURN FOR PAK RECOGNITION. THE TWO MEN WERE IDENTIFIED AS EGYPTIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. KAMAL AND AN UNNAMED SAUDI DELEGATE. LAHORE'S DAILY URDU LANGUAGE MUSAWAT, HOWEVER, CLAIMS THAT INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ADAM MALIK HAS LEFT FOR DACCA.

2. ASSORTED NEWS ITEMS OF PAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE COMMENTED ON INDIAN LEADERS' PURPORTED WARNING TO PAKISTAN NOT TO BRING UP SUB-CONTINENTAL ISSUES AT LAHORE SUMMIT AND PAKTIMES EDITORIAL OF FEB 21 CLAIMS THAT INDIA HAS "PEEVISHLY" INJECTED ITSELF INTO ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE RECOGNITION/WAR CRIMES TANGLE. DELHI, IT CLAIMS, HAS SAID THAT QUESTION OF POW'S CANNOT BE SETTLED BY GOP AND BDG WITHOUT REFERENCE TO GOI, QUOTING SIMLA AGREEMENT OF 1972 AND DELHI AGREEMENT 1973 WHICH CALLS FOR TRIPARTITE TALKS. EDITORIAL, "DELHI IN THE MANGER," GOES ON TO SAY THAT THIS IS REVERSAL OF LONGSTANDING GOI POSITION THAT TRIALS WERE PURELY A MATTER BETWEEN GOP AND BDG AND EMBARRASSMENT TO GOI. OUR PAKISTANI SOURCES - WHO LIKE GENERAL PAK PUBLIC ASSUME BDG IS INDIAN "PUPPET" - CLAIM THAT BREAKTHROUGH WHICH APPEARED POSSIBLE EARLIER IN WEEK HAS BEEN SABOTAGED BY GOI BECAUSE OF DISTASTE OVER ISLAMIC SUMMIT AND BHUTTO'S AFFECTATION OF LEADERSHIP IN MUSLIM WORLD AND DESIRE TO KEEP BANGLADESH UNDER GOI THUMB AND AWAY FROM CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. IN ANY CASE, SETTLEMENT OF POW ISSUE THROUGH TRILATERAL TALKS WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO REACH FRUITION DURING SUMMIT TALKS IN LAHORE.

3. IT IS APPARENT THAT MANY ARAB DELEGATIONS ARE PUTTING PRESSURE ON GOP AND BDG FOR RECONCILIATION, BUT MOST HAVE ACCEPTED BHUTTO'S TERMS AS LEGITIMATE - THE REQUIREMENT OF COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RETURN OF POW'S. IT IS NOT YET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLEAR HOW OR WHY INDONESIAN FONMIN MALIK'S RECONCILIATION EFFORTS FAILED, BUT BY COMMON AGREEMENT HERE HE HAS EGG ON HIS FACE. DELEGATIONS TO CONFERENCE ARE HERMETICALLY SEALED OFF, BUT OUR SOURCES SPECULATE THAT MALIK'S PUBLIC AND CATEGORICAL STATEMENT PERHAPS BACKED BDG INTO CORNER AT DELICATE MOMENT. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT, WITH SIMULTANEOUS EGYPTIAN AND INDONESIAN EFFORTS AS GO-BETWEENS, TOO MANY COOKS MAY HAVE SPOILED BROTH.

4. OFT-POSTPONED MEETING OF BHUTTO WITH PPP LEGISLATORS AND
PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS - (LAHORE REFTEL) - TO BE CARRIED ON
RADIO AND TV - HAS AGAIN BEEN SCHEDULED FEB 21 AT 8 P.M.
CONGEN CONTINUES TO GET CONFLICTING REPORTS ON POSSIBILITY
THAT RECOGNITION FOLLOWED BY BDG ATTENDANCE WILL COME OFF.
HOWEVER, EFFORTS CONTINUE, SO MUCH SO THAT NON-SOUTH ASIAN
DELEGATIONS ARE COMPLAINING THAT SUMMIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN
CALLED NOT FOR MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT BUT TO PROVIDE BHUTTO
WAY OUT OF RECOGNITION TANGLE. AT THIS POINT, IT STILL LOOKS
LIKE A CLIFFHANGER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MOSLEMS, POW, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, SUMMIT MEETINGS, WAR CRIMES TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAHORE00273
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740218/aaaaardz.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LAHORE 0264
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISLAMIC SUMMIT: PAKISTAN RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH
TAGS: PFOR, PK, XC, XF, XI, BG, ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005